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Beale Street Blues

"... the wolves that had been yapping at Beale Street ever since I could remember finally caught up with their victim. Backed by excursion boat operators who wanted to draw the liquor trade, and shady characters who hoped to enjoy even bigger profits from illicit business, the reformers eventually prevailed, passing a local option law for Memphis. That was a calamity. Imagine Pee Wee's closing at twelve o'clock at night! Imagine Beale Street without liquor." (W. C. Handy)

Words and Music by
W. C. Handy (1916)

Chords: A, A7, D, D#dim, F7, A, E7, A

Lyrics:

till ready

I've seen the
The sev - en

lights of gay Broad - way,
won - ders of the world I've seen,

Old Mar - ket Street down by the Fris - co Bay,
And man - y are the plac - es I have been.

E7

I've strolled the Pra - do, I've gam-bled on the
 Take my ad - vice, folks, and see Beale Street

1. A E7 A 2. A E7 A

Bourse. first,

D A E7 A

1. You'll see pret - ty Browns in beau - ti - ful gowns_ You'll see tail - or mades and
 2. You'll see Hog - nose rest_ 'rants and Chit - lin' Ca - fés, You'll see Jugs that tell of
 3. If Beale Street could talk, _ if Beale Street could talk, - Mar - ried men would have to take their

E B7 E Eaug A A7 D D#dim. F7

hand - me - downs, You'll meet hon-est men _ and pick-pock-ets skilled_ You'll find that
 by - gone days, And plac - es, once plac - es, now just a sham, _ You'll see _
 beds and walk, Ex - cept one or two, _ who nev - er drink booze _ And the

7

A E7 A [D] D

bus-'ness nev-er clos-es till some-bod-y gets _ killed. I'd rath-er be here, _
 Gold-en Balls e-nough to pave the New Je-ru-sa-lem. riv-er, _
 blind man on the cor-ner who _ sings the Beale Street Blues.

A+7 A7 D D7 G

than an-y place I know, _ I'd rath-er be here, _
 may-be bye and bye, _ Goin'to the riv-er, _

G7 D D#dim A7

than an-y place I know. _ It's goin'to take the ser-geant
 and there's a rea-son why. _ Be-cause the riv-er's wet, _

Dm A7 1. D 2. D

For to make me go. _ Goin'to the dry. _
 And Beale Street's done gone